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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 NEA-10 SAJ-01 CU-02 NSF-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 (ISO) W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4051
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12549

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR
SUBJ: SOVIET DISSIDENT SCIENTIST GOES TO TBILISI

REF: MOSCOW 12461

1. RELIABLE JEWISH DISSIDENT SOURCE INFORMED US SEPTEMBER 3 THAT PROMINENT DISSIDENT REFUSENIK SCIENTIST ALEXANDER LERNER HAD IN FACT BEEN ALLOWED TO GO TO TBILISI TO PARTICIPATE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SEMINAR. SOURCE SAID THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHER REFUSENIKS HAD ACCOMPANIED LERNER AND WIFE TO AIRPORT. THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY KGB CAR AND AT AIRPORT SAW LARGE NUMBERS OF KGB OFFICIALS. AS LERNER CHECKED IN, HE DISCOVERED STANDING NEXT TO HIM A COLLEAGUE FROM THE INSTITUTE IN WHICH HE HAD FORMERLY WORKED WHO EXPLAINED THAT HE TOO WAS GOING TO TBILISI (THIS COLLEAGUE WAS WELL KNOWN AS INCOMPETENT SCIENTIST, BUT SENIOR KGB OFFICIAL). ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, LERNER AND HIS "COLLEAGUE" WERE ACCOMPANIED BY YET ANOTHER KGB OFFICIAL TO TBILISI. SOURCE SPECULATED THAT KGB HAD SENT SPY TO SPY ON KGB SPY.

2. SOURCE SAID THAT LERNER WAS QUITE SURPRISED TO BE ALLOWED TO GO TO TBILISI. FEELING IN JEWISH DISSIDENT COMMUNITY HERE IS THAT PERMISSION WAS GRANTED AS SMALL SIGN OF DETENTE SPIRIT, SINCE THIS IS APPARENTLY FIRST MAJOR SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN USSR SINCE CSCE SUMMIT. OUR SOURCE CAUTIONED
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THAT NOT TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THIS

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SOVIET GESTURE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NATURALLY PLEASED THAT LERNER HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO ATTEND CONGRESS. HE ADDED THAT KGB WAS PRESUMABLY AWARE THAT LERNER HAD TAPED TEXT OF PAPER HE HOPED TO PRESENT AND HAD GIVEN THIS TO WESTERN PARTICIPANTS. THERE WAS, THEREFORE, LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY REFUSING HIM PERMISSION TO ATTEND.

3. AMERICAN PARTICIPANT TOLD SCICOUNS SEPTEMBER 3 THAT UCLA PROFESSOR PEARL MAY NOT GIVE SCHEDULED PAPER BUT INSTEAD MAKE PROTEST OVER YAKUMOVSKI VISA REFUSAL (REFTEL) FROM FLOOR. STOESSEL

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